

Press Release



For your business and technology editors

Easy synchronisation gives very rapid payback

When programming cycles for machine tending, it is common practice to build into the programs a safety margin to avoid clashing between the robots and the machine guards. However, these cycles can be optimised to create the fastest possible cycle times thanks to a new software feature from ABB Robotics.

Called Machine Sync, the new software can typically reduce extraction time by 10% while at the same time preventing collisions and reducing robot wear and tear. The cycle time savings alone potentially create an equivalent rise in output and profits.

Machine Sync permits easy robot programming and operating and is easily configured using ABB's familiar programming language "Rapid". Machine Sync is also compatible with ABB's Euromap/SPI to guarantee redundant machine-robot safety.

Machine Sync can be applied for machine tending and any material handling and is ideal for injection moulding. Using Machine Sync, workflow can overlap between robot and machines to save time. For example, when the machine is opening, a position signal from a sensor can instruct the robot to enter the machine as soon as there is enough physical space between the machine platens. Moreover, the robot's movement can be synchronised with the moving platen of the machine.

As the mould starts to reclose, the robot starts to move out of the machine with the part it has just extracted. Once the robot reaches the machine closing point, the machine guards start to close. The machine closes safely while the robot is moving out saving still more time.



Decreased extract time translates to improved machine cycle times and a higher production output. For example, a 3000 ton injection moulding machine using an ABB IRB 6650 shelf robot could decrease extraction times by 10% percent simply by synchronising the opening and closing. At three shifts per day year round operation; a cycle time of 30 seconds including an extraction time of 10 seconds would result in 35,000 more parts being produced each year.

RELEASE ENDS – 340 words

NOTE TO EDITORS

ABB (www.abb.com) is a leader in power and automation technologies that enable utility and industry customers to improve their performance while lowering environmental impact. The ABB Group of companies operates in around 100 countries and employs about 108,000 people.

ABB ROBOTICS

ABB is a leading supplier of industrial robots - also providing robot software, peripheral equipment, modular manufacturing cells and service for tasks such as welding, handling, assembly, painting and finishing, picking, packing, palletizing and machine tending. Key markets include automotive, plastics, metal fabrication, foundry, electronics, pharmaceutical and food and beverage industries. A strong solutions focus helps manufacturers improve productivity, product quality and worker safety. ABB has installed more than 150,000 robots worldwide.

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